

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 764, the Child Abuse and Protection Act of 1999—the CAPE Act.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 764, I would like to extend my gratitude to Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE for her hard work on this important measure.

Today at least 500,000 children in the United States are enrolled into foster care or institutions because living situations are so bad, they must be removed from their homes.

In 1997 alone, there were 3 million reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

The challenge for this Congress was to craft legislation which would alleviate this suffering by our children while giving states and localities the resources combined with the flexibility to deal with the child abuse problems in their own communities.

The CAPE Act meets this challenge beautifully.

H.R. 764:

(1) Allows state and local officials to use existing law enforcement grants for child abuse prevention.

(2) Allows state and local officials to use existing Identification Technology Act grants to provide child protection agencies access to criminal history records.

(3) And what I like best about this bill, is that it increases direct funding for child abuse related services in the Crime Victims Fund—all of which comes from forfeited assets, bail bonds, and fines paid to the government by criminals—Not the Taxpayers!

The CAPE Act is an effective piece of legislation that gives those who know how to help abused children the resources they need to do their job, as they see fit.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two significant events in the cultural life of my home city of Jacksonville, Florida: the 50th Anniversary of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the much-anticipated arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, Fabio Mechetti.

Mr. Speaker, either of these things would be something to celebrate under any circumstance. Coming together as they do, however, they represent a unique milestone for

the Symphony and for the people of Northeast Florida.

Founded in 1949, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra has developed from what was essentially a pick-up group doing seven or eight concerts a year into a full-fledged professional orchestra with a nine-month season and a budget of nearly \$7 million. In the process, it has become one of the finest and most respected orchestras in its class in the United States and gained a new home in Jacoby Hall—the only dedicated symphony hall in the state of Florida and one of the few in the nation.

This season, the Symphony will reach more people than ever before, with the advent of innovative new education and outreach programs, and with performances throughout the state and in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition to the stellar array of programs and guest artists including cellist Lynn Harrell, pianist Leon Fleisher, and guest conductors like Philippe Entremont and Joseph Silverstein, the orchestra will also highlight its own by featuring a number of orchestra musicians as soloists, including concertmaster Philip Pan, principal trombonist Richard Stout, and the redoubtable Charlotte Mabrey, one of the world's few female principal percussionists. In a milestone 50th Anniversary Festival, orchestra patrons will be treated this year to a look at the Symphony's past and a taste of its future, including the sponsorship of the first-ever Florida Composers Competition.

The icing on top of this anniversary cake of great music and great community service is the arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, distinguished conductor Fabio Mechetti. Born in Brazil, Maestro Mechetti is one of the most respected young conductors in the U.S. today, garnering consistent praise from critics and colleagues for his artistry and knowledge of the repertoire. Chosen as Music Director in 1999 after an intensive, two-year search process, he comes to Florida's First Coast from the West Coast, where he has been Music Director for the Spokane Symphony for 6 years.

Maestro Mechetti, who just finished a 10-year tenure as Music Director of the Syracuse Symphony and was recently appointed as Music Director of the Rio de Janeiro Opera, has also served as Resident Conductor of the San Diego Symphony and Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., where his children's programs won the National Endowment for the Arts Award for Best Educational Programming in the United States in 1985. He has appeared as guest conductor with many of our nation's outstanding symphony orchestras, as well as with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Denmark and Japan, and is gaining acclaim in the opera world as well.

Mechetti and his wife, Aida Ribeiro—a brilliant concert pianist—will be making their home in Jacksonville in the near future, deepening the ties between the Symphony and its new leader. The advent of the new creative partnership between Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra marks yet another giant step forward for the orchestra and for the cultural life of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on a momentous 50th Anniversary Season and the beginning of a new millennium of great music.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DIVISION, IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

On May 18, 1949, the Ohio division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the frame work of a democratic society.

The goal of the Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more effective U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of Polish Americans.

It is evident that The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland Community.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had title consideration the bill (H.R. 2436) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my opposition to H.R. 2436. Since the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Congress has slowly passed legislation that has eroded women's reproductive choices. This is a personal and private decision that should be made by a woman, her family, her physician, and her beliefs, not subjected to increasing levels of government interference.

Rather than being merely a good faith effort to protect pregnant mothers from violence, the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" is actually a back door attempt to interject government into individuals' private lives. Harsh penalties already exist in thirty-eight states for crimes against pregnant women that result in the injury or death of her fetus.

The overwhelming majority of crimes against pregnant women that cause injury to her fetus occur in cases of domestic abuse or drunk driving accidents, instances that are

prosecutable under currently existing state laws. H.R. 2436 would do nothing to add to the existing protections against these serious and prevalent crimes. Nearly one in every three adult women experience at least one physical assault by their partner during adulthood and drunk driving accidents continue to result in substantial loss of life in every city across the nation. Instead of focusing on purely political measures aimed at the erosion of a women's reproductive freedom, we should be enacting more appropriate penalties, passing measures to promote protection from violence, and increasing assistance to women in life threatening domestic situations.

If the sponsors of this bill truly cared about addressing violence against women, particularly pregnant women, they would have voted in support of the Lofgren Amendment that enacts strict punishments for crimes that result in the injury or death of the fetus without the inclusion of constitutionally questionable language. Or we would be considering the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act that has proven to help victims of domestic violence. Clearly H.R. 2436 is more about politics and less about the protection of a woman or her fetus.

**REGARDING THE DEATH OF
WILLIAM SALETIC**

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the State of Washington and the Northwest seafood industry lost a valuable friend with the death of William G. Saletic on September 9, 1999. Bill had been a very important part of my state's commercial fishing industry since 1960 when he first represented the Purse Sein Vessel Owners Association. Over the next forty years he became both a leader in the industry and an important advisor to many Presidential Administrations and to all who served in the Washington Congressional delegation during that time.

At the time of his death, Bill had just recently retired from his position as President of Peter Pan Seafoods, one of the premier commercial seafood processing companies in the United States, and one of the largest in the Northwest. While at Peter Pan he found time to not only build the company into a marketing powerhouse, but he also remained involved in fishery politics through his membership on numerous boards, commissions, advisory panels and trade associations. Among these were the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Committee for Fisheries of the Law of the Sea, the International Pacific Salmon Fishing Commission, the Board of Directors of the National Fisheries Institute, the Board of Directors of the National Food Processors Association, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Chairman of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association, and member of the Board of the Independent Colleges of Washington.

Bill's involvement in the fisheries of the Northwest and Alaska predates all those who are currently in the Congressional delegations of either Washington or Alaska. He had the chance to assist Senators Magnuson and Jackson in crafting legislation which helped to

protect our domestic salmon industry. In the 1960's and 1970's he worked with the Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter Administrations in negotiating international fishery agreements to balance access to the resource against the need to limit harvests to a sustainable level. He worked with Senators Magnuson and Stevens and Congressman DON YOUNG in the 1970's developing the legislation which extended American fishing jurisdiction out to 200 miles. And he remained active during the 1980's and 1990's as we successfully developed a whole range of commercially valuable species in the North Pacific, species which now provide employment to thousands of Washington residents.

Bill was very proud of his long involvement with the commercial fishing industry, but he was perhaps even more proud of the years of hard work that he put in working toward both a degree in Business Administration and a Masters in History from Seattle University, an institution for which he had a special fondness.

Education was always an issue of great importance to Bill, and he conveyed this value to his six children who were a great joy to him during his lifetime. He will be greatly missed by them by his wife Dolores who, sadly, had only been able to enjoy one year of retired life with Bill prior to his sudden and tragic death.

I feel that I have lost both a close advisor and a friend with the passing of Bill Saletic. He will be missed by me and by all those who had the opportunity to know him.

**IN RECOGNITION OF SEAN
STEPHENSON'S ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS**

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent and former intern with my office, Sean Stephenson. Sean Stephenson has a remarkable outlook on life, nutrition, and fitness. The following is an article on Sean Stephenson that was printed this summer in The Suburban LIFE Citizen, a local paper in my district. I encourage my colleagues to read the article and join me in applauding Sean Stephenson for his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Stephenson continued success in the future.

**MAKING A CHANGE—STEPHENSON ADOPTS NEW
FITNESS, HEALTH REGIMEN**

(By Wendy Foster)

He calls himself Mr. Tiny Universe . . . a fitness buff with a whole new look.

He is tiny . . . measuring in at 2 feet, 10 inches tall. But diminutive stature aside, La Grange resident Sean Stephenson's indomitable spirit combined with his enormous strength of character make him in fact, larger than life.

The 20-year-old was born with Osteogenisis Imperfecta, a genetic connective tissue and bone disorder. Stephenson has a serious form of the condition, which is characterized by bones that break easily from little if any apparent cause.

Never one to let his physical limitations affect his academic, social, or business achievements Stephenson has now set about improving his fitness and health through

what he calls a dramatic change in his lifestyle.

Late last year Stephenson had several experiences that he said changed his life drastically. This started, he recalled, with a December trip to Florida with his family to attend a Tony Robbins seminar.

Robbins is a world-renowned inspirational speaker and the author of popular self-improving books.

Calling Robbins "the world's greatest motivator," Stephenson who has launched his own inspirational speaking business explained, "He's been my hero when it comes to inspirational speaking."

A featured event scheduled toward the end of the seminar was a fire walk. During this, seminar attendees were encouraged to walk across hot coals. Stephenson went in his wheelchair over to where Robbins was helping to supervise the fire walk.

Unable to walk, Stephenson was carried over the hot coals in Robbins' arms. Stephenson recalled, "It was the most incredible experience . . . They were the most intense seconds of my life . . . It felt like an angel was carrying me up to heaven."

Stephenson and his family later had the opportunity to visit with Robbins in his hotel room. Robbins questioned Stephenson about his disability, and then put him in touch with a physician friend of his in Utah.

Several days prior to Christmas, Stephenson went to Utah to see Dr. Robert Young, a hematologist with a speciality in holistic medicine.

Explaining his visit Stephenson said, "He has a different view on medicine. He tested my blood and showed me all of the horrible garbage in my blood from eating wrong. He told me that in order to get healthy and strengthen my bones, I would need to change my eating habits."

He continued, "Every doctor, every surgeon, everyone I have ever gone to has been about taking a pill, a shot, or having more surgery. None of them have made me feel the way that a new nutritional program would . . . I didn't think anything could change with my body through nutrition. I lived on macaroni and cheese everyday. If it was green, I didn't eat it."

After his consultation with Young, Stephenson did a 180-degree turn in terms of his eating habits, becoming an avid vegan. A vegan, he explained, is someone who does not eat any animal by-product.

He has also drastically cut down on his consumption of sugar, salt and foods made with yeast. Stephenson eats tofu, rice, legumes, and water content foods, which he said are vegetables high in water content.

The one-time junk food eater now starts out his morning with steamed broccoli and olive oil on a whole wheat tortilla. Stephenson explained, "It's packed with Vitamin C and calcium and will keep me going strong till noon or later."

Stephenson drinks water laced with a product that Young calls super greens. Admitting that the concoction tastes like "fresh cut grass," Stephenson said it neutralizes acid in the body.

Describing his new eating habits Stephenson stressed, "This is not a diet. This is how I'm eating for life."

In addition to drastically changing his nutritional program, Stephenson embarked upon a strenuous exercise regime, working out for one and a half hours, five or six days each week.

He reported, "It's the best thing that's ever happened to me. I have basically gained muscle mass in massive amounts in a small time."

Stephenson developed his own exercise program on his computer. He now works out with weights, does stomach crunches and